GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:811
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
CHANGE IN RELIGION
JAYASHREE BANERJEE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian nationals who applied to the Indian Diplomatic Missions in foreign countries particularly in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Muscat, Bahrain and Iran for changing names in their passports because of change of religion from Hinduism and Christianity to Islam during the last three years: and

(b) the number out of them women?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b) Any Indian National who applies for a change in name in his passport is not required toindicate the reason for the change. The individual`s religion is neither mentioned in the Passport nor in the passport application form. No separate record is maintained by the passport issuing authority of applications for change in name on grounds of change in religion.